

departing from his position as Vice President and Airport Manager of Washington Dulles International Airport this month after a 29-year career. Mr. Browne has made tremendous contributions for the traveling public and the economic vitality of the National Capital Region and maintains the unique distinction of having served as Airport Manager for both Reagan National and Dulles International airports.

Mr. Browne's passion for aviation began long before his work at the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA). Shortly after graduating from Dartmouth College in 1980, he attended the Navy's "Top Gun" fighter weapon school. As a Naval Flight Officer, he logged more than 1,400 hours and had 300 carrier landings in the F-14 Tomcat and also received the Navy's Commendation Medal for excellent performance.

After his time in the Navy, Mr. Browne started his professional career with the MWAA as a Manager of Operations at Reagan National Airport. During his tenure at Reagan, he had an integral role in the construction of Terminals B and C in 1997, in handling and planning for Y2K, and in implementing new security procedures after September 11, 2001—which allowed the airport to reopen just three weeks after the devastating attack.

After 7 years at Reagan National, Mr. Browne became the Airport Manager and Vice President of Washington Dulles International where he oversaw a staff of over 500 employees and was responsible for an aviation revenue stream exceeding \$400 million.

In his next endeavor, Mr. Browne will take on new responsibilities as Deputy Director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum. He will remain connected to aviation through the Air and Space Museum, which includes the Udvar-Hazy facility on the Dulles campus.

At this moment, Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in extending our sincerest thanks to Mr. Browne for his service to our nation and all the work he has done for the MWAA and the airports in the National Capital Region.

ALEXIS CHAMPAGNE EARNS GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Alexis Champagne of Katy, TX, for earning her Girl Scout Gold Award.

The Gold Award is the highest achievement a Girl Scout can earn. To earn this distinguished award, Alexis had to spend at least 80 hours developing and executing a project that would benefit the community and have a long-term impact on girls as well. Her Gold award project was the launch of the Bob Cat Book Nook book sharing program at Garland McMeans Jr High School in Cinco Ranch, TX. Alexis hosted a book drive for two months, and she used donations to stock the bookshelves of the Junior High School. Students can borrow and return books for free or replace them with other books brought from home. Alexis said the goal of the book nook is to help increase reading and lead to higher

test scores. Her project has impacted over 1,000 people.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Alexis Champagne for earning her Gold Scout Gold Award. We are confident she will have continued success in her future endeavors. We are very proud.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, on January 10, 2017, I was not present to vote on H.R. 79, the "Helping Angels Lead Our Startups Act."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 31, I would have voted "YEA."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on January 10, 2017 I was absent for recorded vote No. 26.

Had I been present, I would have voted "No" on Roll Call No. 26.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes January 4 and January 5, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 7; YEA on Roll Call No. 8; YEA on Roll Call No. 9; YEA on Roll Call No. 10; YEA on Roll Call No. 11; YEA on Roll Call No. 12; NAY on Roll Call No. 13; NAY on Roll Call No. 14.

NAY on Roll Call No. 15; NAY on Roll Call No. 16; NAY on Roll Call No. 17; NAY on Roll Call No. 18; NAY on Roll Call No. 19; NAY on Roll Call No. 20; YEA on Roll Call No. 21; NAY on Roll Call No. 22; YEA on Roll Call No. 23.

IN HONOR OF CHARLOTTE MOTOR SPEEDWAY BEING NAMED "OUTSTANDING FACILITY OF THE YEAR"

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charlotte Motor Speedway for being named the Race Track Business Conference's "Outstanding Facility of the Year." I am proud to represent Charlotte Motor Speedway in Congress, and I want to congratulate Marcus

Smith and his entire team for making this premiere track such an incredible asset for our community.

Built in 1959, Charlotte Motor Speedway has become one of the crown jewels of the racing community. Each year, the speedway plays host to three premier NASCAR events—the NASCAR Sprint All-Star Race, the Coca-Cola 600, and the Bank of America 500—as well as more than three dozen other events for fans of all ages. The "fans first" mentality that has been embodied by the team since their earliest days has allowed them to create an atmosphere that is unrivaled in the motorsports world.

While the 1.5 mile long superspeedway may be the largest attraction, the entire Charlotte Motor Speedway complex expands nearly 2,000 acres and features a multitude of racing options including a 2.25 mile road course and the zMAX Dragway. The variety of racing options and top notch accommodations make any trip to the speedway a special occasion. It is no wonder the track continues to receive high praise from competitors and fans alike year after year. The efforts of all of those at the speedway have made it a truly special place both in motorsports and our local community. There is no doubt in my mind that Charlotte Motor Speedway will continue to provide a unique experience for everyone that visits, and it is my hope its leadership team will continue the innovative approach that has brought so much success to our community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Charlotte Motor Speedway on earning this impressive distinction and well-deserved honor as the "Outstanding Facility of the Year."

RECOGNITION OF PROJECT VIDA

HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

Mr. HURD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 25 year anniversary of Project Vida in El Paso, Texas.

Project Vida was founded in 1991 with the support of residents of El Paso's Chamizal neighborhood and the Presbyterian Church. The institution's first goal was to support the community's self-determined needs to help improve lives. Over the years, Project Vida has expanded its services to provide dental and behavioral health care; early childhood education and child care; affordable housing as well as gang and homelessness prevention.

The contributions of Project Vida have been invaluable to the residents of El Paso's Chamizal neighborhood over the past 25 years. There is no question that the program will continue to set the precedent for community care. I am proud to represent such a dedicated program and to congratulate its dedicated staff and supporters on 25 years of service to others.